him so as to make him stagger—or, as the pugilists say, to render him " groggy "—you must follow up your advantage to the best of your ability, so as to reap its fruits. That we had dealt such a blow to Lee's army by the repulse of Pickett's charge we could see with our eyes. The attacking force of the rebels had not only been hurled back, but what was left of it had been turned into a disorderly and demoralized mob—that is, it had been substantially annihilated as a fighting body, much more apt to continue running than to offer effective resistance—for the time being, at least. On the other hand, we had one army corps that had hardly been engaged at all, and several others which, in spite of the losses they had suffered, T^ere in good fighting form and in unusually fine fighting spirits; for at that moment the Army of the Potomac—what had not often happened to it before—felt victory in its bones. In one word, the chances of success would have been decidedly and largely in our favor. It was one of those rare opportunities in war promising great results, but, to win them, demanding instant resolution. There being no instant resolution the great opportunity was lost. Lee was given ample time to rally and re-form Ms shattered host, and, contracting his lines, to establish himself in his strong defensive position on Seminary Ridge. There he stood—a whole day longer, like a wounded lioi*—wounded, but still defiant. He >gave the order to retreat across the

Potomac on the idfeiMxyK of July 4th. There we had another opportunity to win ^gffeat;; re^siLts by a vigorous pursuit. Lee's retreat was a <I$fit&aKk;.o:aei bwing to his encumbrances and the heavy rains file r^ads; But our pursuit was not vigorous. We i'ftie,notday, exerted hardly any pressure at all upon

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